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ABSTRACT

Based on the view that every adopted child will have been exposed to psychological pain as a result of separation or other hurtful experiences, this book examines issues relating to adoption, attachment, and child development. The book offers guidance to adoptive and foster parents on helping their children through separation, loss, and trauma in early childhood. Part 1 of the book, "Coming Home," discusses balancing the similarities and differences between adoptive and biological parenting. Part 2, "New Beginnings," examines early child development, emphasizing the context of adoption. Part 3, "When Things Don't Seem Quite Right," considers possible indications that things may not be going as smoothly for the adopted child and family as the parents might hope or expect. Part 4, "The Effects of Trauma on Attachment and Development," summarizes current knowledge on the traumatic effects of early separations, losses, abuse, and neglect from both psychological and physiological perspectives. Part 5, "Getting Back on Track," offers a variety of suggestions for handling a wide range of problems. Part 6, "Special Difficulties within Your Family," addresses issues related to adoptive family status, such as life-story work, contact, siblings, and disability. Part 7, "The Spiritual Dimension," discusses how spiritual awareness and creativity can contribute to healing. A glossary defines specialized terms. (Contains 53 references.) (KB)